



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

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For Information Contact Public Affairs
SANDRA RAYNOR
Telephone: (602) 514-7625

CHINLE MAN SENTENCED TO 27 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR ASSAULT RESULTING IN SERIOUS BODILY INJURY

PHOENIX – Karl Keith Etsitty, 24, of Chinle, Ariz. was sentenced on January 21, 2009, by U.S. District Judge Paul G. Rosenblatt to 27 months in federal prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release. Etsitty pleaded guilty on October 6, 2008 to assaulting a woman on the Navajo Nation in October 2007 with his vehicle.

Etsitty, a Navajo Police Officer at the time of the incident, drove his Navajo Police Department issued vehicle while intoxicated and off-duty. He was also speeding, driving 84 mph in a 65 mph zone. As a result of his recklessness, he lost control of the car and rolled over onto another vehicle that was parked on the side of the road. A woman in the parked car at the time suffered numerous injuries, including fractured vertebrae, which permanently affected her mobility and created a substantial risk of death. Etsitty's blood alcohol content was later determined to be .191.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Navajo Police Department, the Navajo Department of Criminal Investigation, the Arizona Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Gallup, New Mexico. The prosecution was handled by Heather H. Nelson, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-08-530-PCT-PGR
RELEASE NUMBER: 2009-025(Etsitty)

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